

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the present amendment. Claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-16, 18-21, 23-30, and 32-33 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 7, 14-16, 18-20, 25, and 33 are amended and claims 13, 17, and 31 are canceled. Claims 4 and 22 have been withdrawn.

A substitute specification is attached which replaces the original specification. Section headings have been changed in the specification. Some text has been changed to correctly reference the drawings. Some text has been added to provide an introductory statement for the claims. A marked-up version and a clean version of the substitute specification are attached. The reference number for the holes (page 6, line 25 and page 7, line 15) has been changed from "70" to the correct number of "71". The reference number "71" is shown in Figure 2. It is respectfully submitted that after the new specification has been accepted, the drawings will no longer be objectionable. The substitute specification contains no new matter.

Claims 1, 2 and 15 have been amended to indicate that the ignition transfer opening provided in said outer housing in claim 1 is the first ignition transfer opening and the ignition transfer opening provided in said igniter unit in claim 2 is the second ignition transfer opening. Thus, the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 112 should be withdrawn. In a similar manner, claims 19, 20, 25 and 33 have been amended to indicate that the ignition transfer opening provided in said outer housing in claim 19 is the first

ignition transfer opening and the ignition transfer opening provided in said igniter unit in claim 20 is the second ignition transfer opening for better form.

Claim 7 has been amended to clarify that "said space" is the distribution space to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112. In claim 18, the phrase "except for said distribution space (42)" has been replaced with the phrase "except for said distribution space (40) and said expansion space (42)" in deference to the examiner. In claims 14 and 32, the phrase "except for said expansion space (42)" has been replaced with the phrase "except for said expansion space and said distribution space" in deference to the examiner. Claims 16 and 18 have been amended to provide the "distribution space" with an antecedent. In claim 33, "said central axis A" has been replaced with "said first axis A" to completely agree with its antecedent. Therefore, the rejection of claims 7-12, 14, 16, 18, and 32-33 under 35 U.S.C. 112 is overcome.

The examiner has stated that claims 7-12, 14, and 25-33 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 and to include all of the limitation of the base claim and intervening claims. These claims have accordingly been rewritten to include such limitations and to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112 as mentioned above. Therefore, claims 7-12, 14, and 25-33 are allowable. The examiner has stated that claims 16 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112. These claims have accordingly been rewritten to

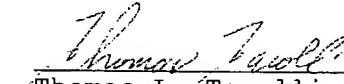
to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112 as mentioned above. Therefore, claims 16 and 18 are allowable

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 19-21, and 23-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dinsdale et al. in view of Rink et al. Claims 1 and 19 have been amended to recite that said one of a distribution space (40) and an intermediate space (80) being defined by an inner face of said outer housing (10) and a wall (32).

Neither Dinsdale nor the Rink nor any of the other prior art disclose or suggest that an inner face of the outer housing and a wall define either the distribution space or the intermediate space. By contrast, Dinsdale discloses ends 66, 68 of a pressure chamber 54 containing a gas under such a high pressure that it is partly in liquid form. Rink also discloses ends 66, 68 of a pressure chamber 54. There is no wall in either Dinsdale or Rink that in combination with an outer housing defines the distribution space or intermediate space into which ignition gas flows before reaching the propellant. Therefore claims 1 and 19 are allowable. Claims 2-3 and 5-6, which depend on claim 1, are therefore allowable as depending from an allowable claim and for the specific features recited therein. Also, claims 20-21 and 23-24, which depend on claim 19, are therefore allowable as depending from an allowable claim and for the specific features recited therein.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,


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